

EVACUATION HOSPITAL "2 USA
Pertillon, France. 16 March 1919.

My Dearest Wife:-

I have a little time today but no ink, so am using the typewriter for I want to write to you as I should every day, but have not been able in the past as we have been so unusually busy. It is Sunday, and we have let up a bit on that account, but tomorrow the work will start in again as if we had not done any at all. I have every reason to believe that we will have our final inspection in a very few days now, and I will not breathe freely until that is off my mind. It is considerable of a responsibility, and I am anxious to have it over.

I have just noticed the small margin that I left on this letter and am ashamed that after all the experience that I have had on the typewriter I should not be able to do better than that. However I guess you will not be fussy about details and I will be more careful on the next sheet. I have had the company do nothing today except bathe and have their haircut. It has been a lot of fun to watch them in the process. Imagine having these things done under orders! It is a necessary procedure however as every man must present a neat and orderly appearance in every way on inspection and some of them were rather freasy by the time we arrived here from Coblenz. I had a wonderful bath yesterday, which was my first in over a week, and I never appreciated cleanliness and the good feeling that accompanies it more in my life than I did after that bath.

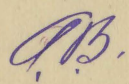
The weather still remains very nice. In fact it is beautiful and the sun does a great deal to take the curse off what would otherwise be a most uncomfortable experience. I have no complaint to make regarding the comfort we are enjoying, other than the fact that I would rather be suffering all the discomfort in the world and be on the way home, than sitting here waiting for a ship. But such is life in the army. There is nothing to do except make the best of it, and that is what we are all doing.

I have just discovered a beautiful drill field in this neighborhood, and after today the men are going to get a lot of drill. They are not as

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interested in it now as they were at one time, but something of that sort is necessary to keep the discipline of the organization good, which is a difficult task at the best. Our boys are all so anxious to get home that they are willing to undergo almost anything to make it possible, so I really anticipate very little trouble with them. They are an exceptionally good lot of men. They have every regard for me and show it in many ways, and it makes it all the easier for me to work for them as I have been in the past. I enjoy it more than anything that I have ever done in the army.

I feel that now I am on the last lap of the trip home. I have no reason to believe that we have been more unfortunate than any other organization in France. I think that the time is relatively short until I will return and that also makes me more cheerful. In the meantime Dearest, be brave, and patient, and we will be together soon. I love you. I love you so much that it is impossible for me to express my love in words. I love my babies, and Oh! how I do want to see you all. I must close this letter now Dear, but I will write again tomorrow. I love you. Love me Dear Girl, and pray for my early return to the States and it will come true I know. I love you so.



Ansel B. Smith Capt MC USA

Evacuation Hospital "2 USA

Amer E F France.